THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Complaints against Cantonment Board employees are looked into by the respective Cantonment Boards who alone are competent to take disciplinary action against them if the cause for such action can be established.

A complaint of one Shri Ved Gupta, dated 22-9-1991, alleping amassing of wealth by the Assistant Engineer, Dehradun Cantonment Board, was received by the Chief Executive Officer of the Board. As the complaint was a general nature without specific details of assets alleged to be owned, it had not been possible to proceed further in the matter.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Replacement of Aircraft carrier "Vikrant"

3159. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to replace the Air Craft Carrier 'Vikrant' with light aircraft carrier by the end of the decade, if so, what will be its tonnage and how many aircrafts and helicopters it can accommodate;

(b) whether it will be totally indigenous, both in design and construction; and

(c) whether Government have entered into prelimenary study contract with a French firm in 1988 for the air-craft carrier.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Impact of global positioning system on Mapping technique

3160. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated the 24th November, 1991 captioned "Maps outmoded by satellite";

(b) if so, the impact of the Global Positioning System (GPS) on the traditional mapping technique; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote the use of GPS systems both for defence and commercial uses?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Any mapping process consists of a number of steps such as provision of ground control, photogrammetric compilation using aerial photography and satellite imagery, ground verification, mapping and printing etc. The Global Positioning System (GPS) only helps in expediting the provision of ground control. The subsequent steps remain unchanged. It will not be in the interests of national security to disclose further details, in so far as application of GPS for defence uses is concerned.

Medical Reimbursement to army officers

3161. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether amount spent on operations conducted by Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases, Madras Medical Mission, Madras, in respect of army officers and their families are not reimbursed even in emergency cases;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of reimbursements in respect of defence personnel pending for more than two years together with for reasons therefor;